



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
09-AFC-7C

TN # 69838

MAR. 06 2013

AMENDMENT
FOR THE PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM

Docket No. 09-AFC-7C

COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER

Palen Solar I, LLC filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the Commission on August 24, 2009 to construct and operate a nominal 500 megawatt (MW) concentrating solar thermal electric power generating facility. The Commission issued a Final Decision for the Palen Solar Power Project (PSPP) on December 15, 2010 (Order No. 10-1215-19, the "Final Decision," 09-AFC-7). The Final Decision describes the PSPP as a solar thermal project using parabolic trough technology.

Project ownership has changed, and the current owner, Palen Solar Holdings (PSH), seeks to amend the Final Decision. The modified project would be called Palen Solar Electric Generating System (PSEGS). The amendment includes replacing the parabolic trough solar collection system and associated heat transfer fluid with "power tower" technology. The technology uses heliostats - elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on a pylon - to focus the sun's rays on a solar receiver steam generator located atop a solar tower near the center of each solar field to create steam. A limited amount of natural gas would be used prior to sunrise, and at other times when solar insolation has dropped below the level required to keep the steam turbine generator system running. PSEGS will be comprised of two adjacent solar fields and associated facilities with a total combined nominal output of approximately 500 MW.

The Energy Commission assigned a Committee of two Commissioners to conduct proceedings on the amendment. The Committee held a public Site Visit and Informational Hearing at the Coachella Valley History Museum in Indio on February 20, 2013, to discuss the review process and to identify issues that could affect the schedule. Pursuant to Title 20, of the California Code of Regulations, section 1709.7(c), the attached Committee Schedule is based on Staff's proposed schedule and related discussions at the Informational Hearing.

The schedule contains a list of events that must occur in order to complete the certification process. This initial schedule covers the period up to the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) with the balance of the schedule to be determined by the Committee. The Committee encourages the parties to consider this schedule an outer boundary and make their best efforts to complete the milestones ahead of these dates.

Some deadlines may be contingent upon reviews to be conducted by federal, state, and local agencies. The Applicant must provide sufficient review time for the responsible agencies to meet the deadlines specified in the schedule.

Technical issues involving biological resources, cultural resources, soil and water resources, traffic and transportation, and visual resources were discussed at the Informational Hearing. **Resolution of these issues, and others that develop during the review process, shall be addressed during the data exchange process and in public meetings with the parties and interested governmental agencies.** Given the complexities involved in resolving such issues, the parties are hereby notified that the Committee may modify the schedule at any time upon either its own motion or that of a party. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1709.7 (c).)

Status Reports and Status Conferences

The attached schedule requires status reports to be submitted by all parties. Status reports shall inform the Committee whether or not case development is progressing satisfactorily, and bring potential schedule delays and other relevant matters to the Committee's attention.

The reports shall be received by the other parties and the Commission's Docket Unit, 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4, Sacramento, California 95814-5512, **and must be filed no later than 3:00 p.m.**, on the due date. Status reports must contain "Docket No. 09-AFC-7C" in the caption or heading.

At least one status conference will be held by the Committee, at a date, time and place to be determined. The Committee will provide notice of any status conferences to all parties and the public.

Public Adviser and Public Participation

The Energy Commission invites members of the public and other interested parties to participate either on an informal basis or by intervening in the proceeding. Both types of participation allow written and oral comments. At the informal participation level, written and oral public comments are considered by the Commissioners and are part of the record, but are not part of the formal evidentiary record. Intervenors have the right to introduce evidence into the evidentiary record and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses.

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office is available to provide the public with an understanding of a proceeding and to make recommendations for meaningful participation. For assistance, contact Blake Roberts, the Assistant Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or 800-822-6228 or e-mail at: publicadviser@energy.ca.gov.

Information

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Raoul Renaud, the Hearing Adviser, at (916) 651-2020, or e-mail: raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov.

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Christine Stora, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4745 or e-mail: christine.stora@energy.ca.gov.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989 or e-mail at: mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/>.

Dated: March 6, 2013, at Sacramento, California.

Original Signed By:

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Palen Solar Electric Generating System
Amendment Committee

Original Signed By:

DAVID HOCHSCHILD
Commissioner and Associate Member
Palen Solar Electric Generating System
Amendment Committee

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE
PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM AMENDMENT
09-AFC-7C

ACTIVITY	DATE
Applicant files Palen Solar Project Amendment	12/17/2012
Applicant files Palen Solar Project Supplemental Information	2/8/13
Staff files Issues Identification Report	2/15/13
Informational Hearing and Site Visit	2/20/13
Staff files Data Requests	tbd
Data Request and Issue Resolution Workshop	tbd
Status Reports due from all parties	3/29/13
Applicant provides data responses	tbd
Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop	tbd
Status Conference	tbd
Status Reports due from all parties	4/30/13
Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) published	5/22/13
Staff Assessment Workshop	6/12/13
Staff Assessment (SA) – 30 day comment period ends	6/21/13
Final Staff Assessment (FSA) published	7/23/13
Prehearing Conference	tbd
Evidentiary Hearing	tbd

tbd=to be determined



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AMENDMENT

**FOR THE PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM**

**Docket No. 09-AFC-7C
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 3/1/13)**

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COMMISSION DOCKET UNIT

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OTHER ENERGY COMMISSION
PARTICIPANTS (LISTED FOR
CONVENIENCE ONLY):

*After docketing, the Docket Unit
will provide a copy to the persons
listed below. Do not send copies of
documents to these persons
unless specifically directed to do
so.*

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Presiding Member

*David Hochschild
Commissioner and Associate Member

Raoul Renaud
Hearing Adviser

Galen Lemei
Adviser to Presiding Member

Jennifer Nelson
Adviser to Presiding Member

*Jim Bartridge
Adviser to Associate Member

Eileen Allen
Commissioners' Technical
Adviser for Facility Siting

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, RoseMary Avalos, declare that on March 6, 2013, I served and filed copies of the attached COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER, dated March 6, 2013. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service, which I copied from the web page for this project at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/>.

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check one)

For service to all other parties and filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

 X I e-mailed the document to all e-mail addresses on the Service List above and personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to those parties noted above as "hard copy required"; **OR**

 Instead of e-mailing the document, I personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to all of the persons on the Service List for whom a mailing address is given.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am over the age of 18 years.

Dated: March 6, 2013

Original Signed By: _____

RoseMary Avalos
Hearing Office